

Beak's Bash

BEAK'S BEACH BASH, featuring the Flightline Follies, took place at JSC in June. This much anticipated employee event was an action-packed, fun-filled evening of zany entertainment. The "bash" was held in Hangar 990 at Ellington Field and included a social hour, catered dinner, and a show with dancing that lasted until midnight.



NASA/Blair JSC2005E22950



NASA/Blair JSC2005E22996



NASA/Blair JSC2005E22990



NASA/Blair JSC2005E22943

Space Center Roundup

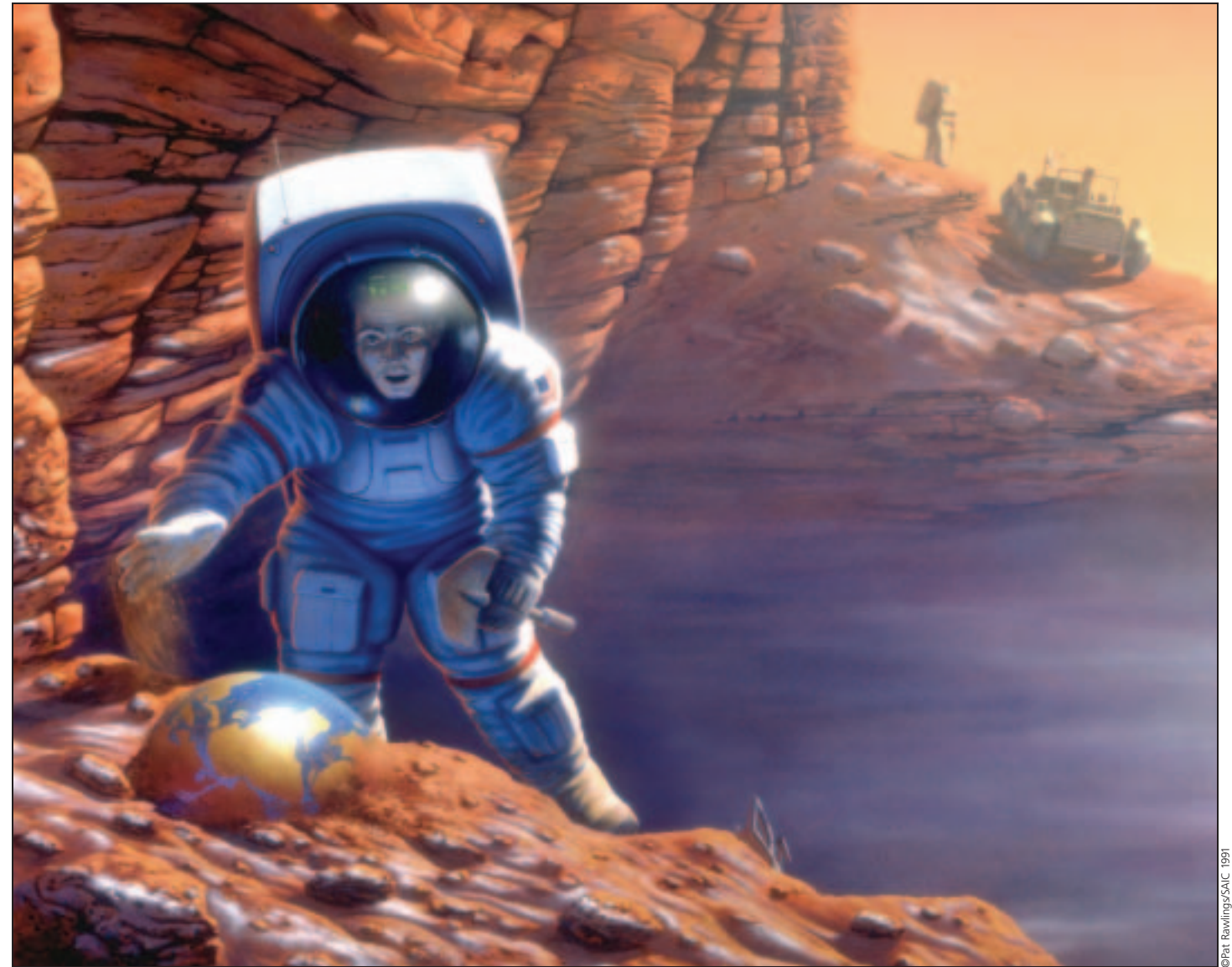
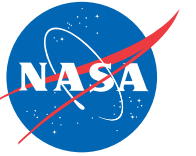
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Discovering new frontiers

As astronauts prepare for possible long-duration missions to Mars they must learn how to make the transition from their cozy earth environment to the sterile environment in space. Read more about the psychological preparation and training astronauts must undergo before taking off on their journey into the unknown on page 8.

Explore. Discover. Understand.

August
2005
Houston, Texas

Guest columnist

A MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY CENTER DIRECTOR BOB CABANA



Dog days of Summer

It might be cold in the winter, but August in Minnesota is hot. As a young boy spending my summers working on the family farm, I liked nothing better than to get out of doing my chores and float down the Mississippi River on an inner tube, or just lie in the grass in the shade of an old oak tree with our dog Shep and watch the clouds go by. It sure beat going around in circles on an 80 acre field mowing and raking alfalfa. (Going around in circles isn't all bad, however; it's just a lot better at 17,500 miles per hour in the Shuttle.)

The pace of life today is a lot different than it was then, especially here at the Johnson Space Center. We don't seem to have a lot of time to just sit back and watch the world go by. We're challenged by Return to Flight, completing the International Space Station and supporting the crew on orbit, and preparing for and executing a new vision for exploration. We work long hours every day and, when we get home, we have to cram the rest of our life into the time remaining. We rush to get our exercise in, we rush to get our yard work done, we rush to get the chores done around the house, and it's hot. It's easy to get dehydrated and to get just plain tuckered out, and that's when accidents happen. When we're hot and sweaty and tired, it's easy to slip off that ladder when we're cleaning out the rain gutters. It's easy to not pay attention and back over something in the driveway. It's just plain easy to do something dumb, and it also affects our ability to make good decisions when we're at work, when clear thinking is critical.

There's a reason they're called the dog days of summer. Dogs can be pretty smart and set a good example laying out in the shade on a hot August afternoon. So take some time for yourself and learn to relax a little. Don't rush, work at an easy pace when you're out doors, drink plenty of fluids and don't become a safety statistic. We need everyone on the team functioning at their best performance if we're going to succeed.

Keep up the great work and let's go exploring!

Woof,

Mighty Dog (from Dog Crews STS-53 and STS-88)
a.k.a. Bob Cabana, Deputy Center Director

3... 2... 1...

Get ready to read all about the STS-114 mission in the September issue of the Roundup!

We've got spirit, yes we do JSC honored with VPP Spirit Award

by Catherine E. Borsché

For NASA, safety and success are synonymous with one another. Johnson Space Center was recently awarded tangible proof of its dedication to safety with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program's (VPP's) Spirit Award.

JSC has long been a participant in VPP, which was designed to promote effective worksite-based safety and health. In the VPP, management, employees and OSHA work cooperatively to implement a comprehensive safety and health management system.

"The VPP Spirit Award is given to one VPP site that has demonstrated commitment over and above the stringent requirements and philosophies of VPP. The competition is fierce for this award, especially for a government agency such as NASA, which operates on a very tight budget," said Elmer Johnson, assistant chief for the Safety and Test Operations Division.

To comprehend the magnitude of this achievement, consider that JSC was recognized out of 350 government and private industry sites within Region VI. Region VI consists of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

JSC excelled in many areas to win this award.

First, JSC has two members on the VPP Participants Association Board of Directors. Elmer Johnson is the director-at-large, and Sandy Griffin is the current vice chairperson.

"Participation on the Board of Directors enables NASA to gain insight into the inner workings of the program and the items not necessarily written in a requirements document," Johnson said.

JSC also sent a Special Government Employee (SGE) to help OSHA during a VPP audit at another site. Johnson indicated that sending an SGE to help during an audit creates a "win-win" situation because OSHA gets free help and NASA gains insight into the latest target areas within OSHA. It also helps NASA employees see how other industries implement VPP.

Another way JSC shone is through VPP conference participation. At regional and national conferences, JSC has very visible representation.

"Sandy Griffin is also the conference committee chair and does a fantastic job," Johnson said. "She calls for volunteers throughout the region from the nearly 350 sites that are recognized as VPP quality and sites that are seeking this prestigious designation."

This award means that JSC is setting the bar high for the rest of the region.

"There is a large JSC and NASA presence within VPP, and the Spirit Award is a way of recognizing all the efforts that JSC employees and management have put forth to keep the momentum high within the region," Johnson said. "As we move toward Return to Flight, it is more important than ever to remain vigilant towards safety. It is everyone's goal at JSC to get back to a flight mode, but we cannot afford to lose sight of safety along the way. Safety applies everywhere, and we must remain vigilant for the safety and health of our families and coworkers."



Elmer Johnson and Sandy Griffin, both members of the VPP Participants Association Board of Directors, helped JSC win the VPP Spirit Award by enabling NASA to gain insight into the inner workings of VPP.